

Bridgnorth Rural District Council.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for year 1938.

Public Health Officers of the Authority: Medical Officer of Health, L. E. Dickson, M.D. (part time); Public Analyst, Mr. H. Lowe, Chester; Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D. C. Younger (whole time).

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres, 101,040.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1938, 11,830.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938 according to Rate Book, 3,308.
Ratable value, £44,427.
Product of 1d. rate, £197 3s. 7d.

Social Conditions.

The district is principally an agricultural one, but there are coal mines at Highley and Alveley and Chorley. The stone quarry at Ditton Priors is now abandoned.

Employment in the collieries was good throughout the year, full time and full staffs being maintained.

In other occupations available effective male labour was fully used.

The carpet trade at Kidderminster, in which Highley women and girl workers are mainly employed, recovered from the previous year's slackness, and by the end of September normal working was resumed.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births (Legitimate)	188	91	97
(Illegitimate)	4	2	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.2		
Stillbirths	1	1	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	20.8		
Deaths	138	62	76
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.49		
(Comparability factor 0.9).			
Adjusted death rate	10.34		
Deaths from puerperal causes	0		
Death Rate of infants under one year of age:—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	72.9		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	74.4		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	22		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0		

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

- Public Health Officers.—See above.
- There have been no changes in the following services:—
 - Laboratory facilities.
 - Ambulance facilities.
 - Nursing in the Home.
 - Treatment Centres and Clinics.
 - Hospitals.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water.—The rainfall has again been about average and there has been no noticeable shortage of water.

Button Oak.—The scheme for the provision of a water supply to this district from the Elan Aqueduct of the Birmingham Corporation was approved by the Ministry of Health. A proposal by the Kidderminster Rural District Council to supply an adjacent area in their district under the same scheme was approved. The work was put in hand in December.

Stottesdon.—This scheme has been delayed by failure to arrive at an agreement as to the purchase price of some of the land necessary for the scheme and the cost of acquiring the rights in the springs. It was finally decided to acquire the Hardwick Spring. Analyses of the water from this and the two Walton springs were made and were satisfactory.

Alveley.—The growth of this village and the irregularity of the supply under the present system make it increasingly necessary to improve this piped supply. Major Waters inspected this supply and the Greenhouse Dingle spring, and samples of water from both sources were examined by the public analyst. The analyses showed the two waters to be identical in composition and both were satisfactory. After considering Major Waters' report it was decided to continue using the present source, but to instal a new pump and delivery pipe, increase the capacity of the storage tank, and lay new and extended mains, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health. The

approval of the Ministry had not been obtained at the end of the year.

Wells.—Bacteriological analyses of water from Chelmarsh School well on two occasions were satisfactory. Analyses of water from two other wells were not satisfactory.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.—There have been no important extensions of these. Claverley: A report by your Sanitary Inspector was made on sewage disposal in this village, and a plan for improving the flow of water in the brook below the Church was approved and carried out.

II. Rivers and Streams.—No new action has been taken to prevent pollution of these.

III. (i) Closet Accommodation.—Number of conversions from the conservancy system, 22.

(ii) Public Cleansing.—There have been no changes during the year.

(iii) A report by your Sanitary Inspector is appended.

(iv) No action has been taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

(v) Camping Sites.—There is only one site of any considerable size in the district. The maximum number of campers in this site at any one time was 200. No licenses have been issued by the local authority.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.—No action has been needed for this.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are two pools in the area which are open to the public. Both are well kept and have a satisfactory purifying plant.

(viii) Bed Bugs.—No cases of infestation have been discovered.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) a. Total Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	630
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	670
(2) a. Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	27
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	35
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	10

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	12
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
a. By owners	0
b. By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	82
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
a. By owners	60
b. By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders	

were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV., Overcrowding:—

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	3
2. Number of families dwelling therein	3
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	12
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	36
(d) Particulars of any case in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk.—No samples were examined for bacterial content or for tubercle bacilli by the Local Authority. There has been improvement in the conditions under which milk is produced in the district.

(b) Meat and other Foods.—No action has been taken with regard to slaughterhouses, shops, etc., in the area.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:—
Number killed: Cattle, excluding cows, 121; cows, 0; calves, 123; sheep and lambs, 2,124; pigs, 1,002.

Number inspected: Cattle, 2; calves, 2; sheep and lambs, 11; pigs, 10.

All diseases except Tuberculosis:—

Whole carcases condemned	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	18.1

Tuberculosis only:—

Whole carcases condemned	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None

(c) Adulteration, etc.—No action has been taken by the Local Authority in this matter.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—This is carried out by the Public Analyst. None were made in the year.

(e) Nutrition.—No action has been taken in this matter.

(f) Shell-Fish.—There are no beds in the area.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

The amount of infectious disease was again small. The cases of scarlet fever were mild in character. Nine were admitted to hospital.

There were no serious epidemics of non-notifiable infectious disease.

School intimations of disease are found useful.

No provision for artificial immunisation against diphtheria is made.

Notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	15	9	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Pneumonia	15	2	5
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum	1	0	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	1	0	1

Analysis of cases under age-groups:—

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Polio-Encephalitis
Und. 1 year	0	0	1	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0
3	1	0	1	0	0
4	1	0	0	0	0
5	9	0	1	0	0
10	2	1	0	0	0
15	0	0	2	0	0
20	1	1	0	1	1
35	0	1	3	0	0
45	0	0	3	0	0
65 and over	1	0	3	0	0

Prevention of Blindness.—No action has been taken in this matter.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
25	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
45	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
65 & upds.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	5	4	0	0	2	1	1	0

There was no non-notified death during the year.

L. E. DICKSON,
Medical Officer of Health.
27th July, 1939.

SANITARY OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Complaints.

Forty-four complaints were received during the year of various natures. These were all attended to and remedied and in each case the respective owners were personally interviewed. In several instances re-inspections had to be carried out so as to ensure that the necessary work had been carried out.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.

These premises have been periodically inspected during the year, and in each case were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

A considerable amount of alteration and reconditioning work has been done during the year, both to comply with the County Authorities and that of the Rural District.

All producers and retailers are constantly being reminded as to the necessity of complying with the provisions of the Order.

Slaughterhouses.

Periodical inspections are carried out to all these premises during the year. The sanitary conditions in each case were found to be fairly satisfactory. The lime-washing is carried out twice annually, or as often as may be required in any particular circumstances.

Bakehouses.

Periodical inspections of these premises have been made during the year, and except for the attention of the occupier being drawn to the annual lime-washing, no further action was found necessary.

Workshops and Workplaces.

These premises have been visited from time to time, but with the exception of the annual lime-washing and the general sanitary conditions, no further action was found necessary.

House Scavenging.

This is a branch of sanitary administration which has become rather troublesome owing to the increase in the use of canned goods. The offensive accumulations of various kinds, however, have been satisfactorily dealt with during the year.

Water Supplies.

Twenty-seven wells belonging to private owners have been reconstructed so as to prevent contamination from surface pollution. One public well has been reconditioned so as to prevent surface contamination.

Water Analysis.

Fifteen samples were taken during the year; eleven bacteriological and four chemical. Two bacteriological samples were reported as being unsatisfactory, and two chemical samples were reported as being unsatisfactory.

Swimming Pools.

There are two swimming pools in the district. One at Alveley and one at Swancote. These places are visited periodically during the season, and, on each occasion, the sanitary conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Unsound Food.

Places where food is stored and prepared for human consumption have been inspected during the year, and in no case have I found any food which in my opinion was not fit for human consumption.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of closets converted from the conservancy system, 22.

D. C. YOUNGER,
Sanitary Officer.
27th July, 1939.

